

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	EAS.80
Historic Name:	Cobb, Capt. Harding House
Common Name:	Traveler's Rest
Address:	670 Massasoit Rd
City/Town:	Eastham
Village/Neighborhood:	North Eastham
Local No:	08-277
Year Constructed:	r 1840
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Federal
Use(s):	Agricultural; Hotel or Inn; Single Family Dwelling House; Tavern
Significance:	Agriculture; Architecture; Commerce
Area(s):	
Designation(s):	
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood Clapboard; Wood Shingle; Wood



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

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FORM B - BUILDING

01. N. EAST
EAS. 80

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Assessor's
Number

08/277

USGS Quad

Orleans

Area(s)

Form Number

80

Town

Eastham

(neighborhood or village)

670 Massasoit Road

Historic Name

Present Residential

Original "

Period of Construction Between 1830 & 1858

See Bibliography*

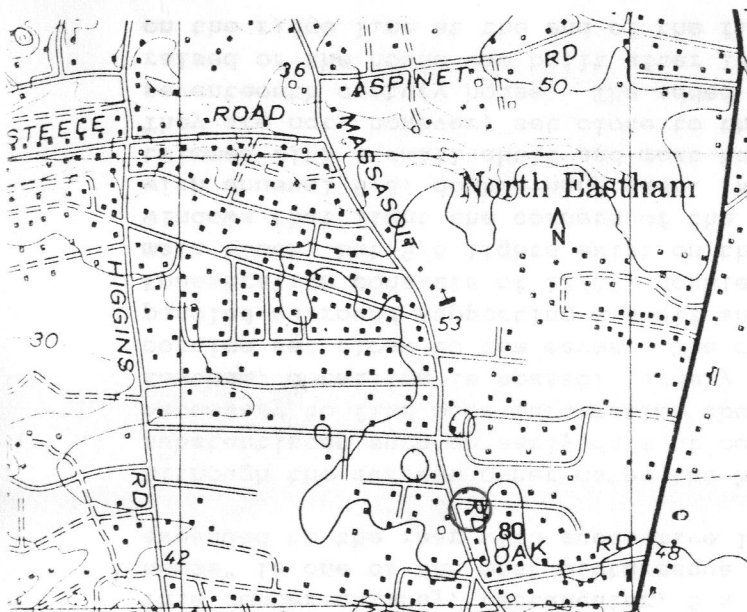
Form Center-chimney, Full Cape Cod House

Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:



here. Indicate North.



Foundation Not Visible

Wall/Trim Clapboard (Facade)
Shingles (Other Elevations)

Roof Asphalt Shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures
Free-standing Shed

Major Alterations (with dates)

Condition Good

Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date

Acreage .75 Acres

Setting Located in a moderately-settled, rural area on the SE corner of Wiley Lane and Massasoit Roads.

Recorded by: Diahne L. Siergiej
and Sanford Johnson
Organization: Commonwealth Collaborative

Date: August 1995

RECEIVED

SEP 20 1995

MASS. HIST. COMM.

BUILDING FORM

670 Massasoit Road

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☐ See continuation sheet.

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

This center-chimney, rectangular, 5 x 2-bay, full Cape Cod House or "double house" is one of the most picturesque in Eastham. The main block has been expanded to the rear with successive 1-story, gable-roofed, rear additions.

Although the current owner dates the house to c. 1700, little about it substantiates such an early date of construction. Further deed research is necessary to find more information about the house. As is typical for Eastham, detailing is sparse, largely limited to end boards and a boxed cornice set close to the eaves. The center entry is enhanced by a tall, paneled surround supporting a shelf and including a 4-light transom. Fenestration consists of 12/12, double-hung sash on the first floor of the main block, but 9/6 lights exist on the second level and the typical, small, windows that light the corners of the second story of cape houses are larger with unusual 6/3, double-hung sash. Windows on the main block are also trimmed with a small shelf and most have appropriately-sized louvered blinds. They are not, however, set close to the eaves as is expected on an early seventeenth century house. The added wall space indicates either the roof was raised or the house was built after 1830. A secondary chimney also exists at on the ridge line at the end of the first rear addition.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE ☒ See continuation sheet.

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

Massasoit Road was developed during the Federal Period (1775-1830). By the end of the Federal Period, Methodists had established a campground near Campground Road off Massasoit Road. This center for summer religious retreats lasted from 1830 to 1862 when the camp moved to Yarmouth. By 1831, one of Eastham's five schools and many residences were located on Massasoit Road.

It is likely that many of the residents were involved in agriculture. Grains were an early cash crop in Eastham and later, asparagus and turnips became more common. Husbandry and fishing were also important sources of income for Massasoit Road residents. By 1901, at least seven farmers were living on Massasoit Road. There were also a clerk, lighthouse keeper, laborer and a grocer. A provisions store was located on the corner of Oak and Massasoit Roads. By the twentieth century, the road had become an important way from Orleans through Eastham to Wellfleet. Seasonal residents had begun building summer homes and cottages by the Early Modern Period.

Captain Bangs to whom the house at 655 Massasoit Road is attributed is credited by the current owner, Kathleen Bresnahan with also having built this dwelling at 670 Massasoit Road c. 1700. No information about Captain Bangs was located in local, secondary sources.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☒ See continuation sheet.

☒ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places;

If checked, see attached National Register Criteria Statement form.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

670 Massasoit Road
Eastham

Area Form No. 80

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE (continued)

From c. 1830 until 1860, the owner was Captain Harding Cobb. He operated at least two packet boats in Cape Cod Bay, A. C. Totten and Bay Queen. The latter was the largest, the finest and the last of the Eastham packets. Both carried passengers between the packet wharf near the Methodist campground and Boston. During the Federal and Early Industrial Periods, Captain Cobb called the house "Traveler's Rest" and used it as an inn and tavern.

On the 1858 Walling map, the dwelling is attributed to S. Cobb and named "Traveler's Home." No deed research had been done by the Eastham Historical Society to further identify S. Cobb who was likely a descendant of Captain Cobb and continued to operate the inn.

The owner from c. 1880 until 1908 was Alonzo K. Higgins whose name appears at the property on the Eastham maps of those years. He worked as a weir fisherman in the bay in the 1870's and was listed as a farmer in the 1901

resident directory. In 1918, Nettie Wiley, the daughter of Alonzo and Elizabeth Higgins, owned the house. She transferred it to her son and daughter-in-law, Maurice and Myrtle Wiley. Mr. Wiley served the town of Eastham as police chief and selectman into the 1960's.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (continued)

*House File 670 Massasoit Road, Eastham Historical Society Archives.

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(Falmouth: Eastham Historical Society, 1968), p. 37.

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Resident and Business Directory of Cape Cod, 1901.

Roger, Josiah, Knowles, Elijah and Kinsman, Simeon. Map of the Town of
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INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

EAS. 80
670 Massasoit Road
Eastham

Area Form No. 80



Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community: Eastham
Property Address: 670 Massasoit Road

EAS.80

Area Form No. 80

National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement

Check all that apply:

☒ Individually eligible ☐ Eligible only in a historic district
☐ Contributing to a potential historic district ☐ Potential historic district

Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Statement of Significance by: Dianne L. Siergiej
The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.

The property at 670 Massasoit Road is significant on a local level with regard to the above-referenced criteria as one of the oldest, best preserved and most picturesque examples of the full Cape Cod house form (double house) in Eastham. It is also significant for its association with Captain Harding Cobb, operator of least two packets in Massachusetts Bay, one of which, The Bay Queen, was considered the largest and the finest of the Eastham packets.

Original yellow form: Eligibility file _____
Copies: Inventory form ☒ _____
Town file(w/corresp.) _____
Macris _____
NR director _____

EAS.80

Community: Eastham

MHC OPINION: ELIGIBILITY FOR NATIONAL REGISTER

Date Received: 10/95

Date Due:

Date Reviewed: 12/6/95

Type: ☒ Individual

☐ District (Attach map indicating boundaries)

Name:

Inventory Form: EAS.80

Address: 670 Massasoit Road

Requested by: LHC

Action: ☒ Honor ☐ ITC ☐ Grant ☐ R & C ☐ Other:

Agency:

Staff in charge of Review: BF

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES

☒ Eligible
☐ Eligible, also in district
☐ Eligible only in district
☐ Ineligible
☐ More information needed

DISTRICTS

☐ Eligible
☐ Ineligible
☐ More information needed

CRITERIA: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

LEVEL: ☒ Local ☐ State ☐ National

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE by Kathleen Kelly Broomer

The full cape at 670 Massasoit Road meets Criterion A for its associations with Eastham residents in the shipping and fishing industries and its early use as an inn and tavern. A fine example of full cape design in Eastham from the second quarter of the 19th century, the property also meets Criterion C.